

News from Ed Markey

United States Congress

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Massachusetts Seventh District

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MARKEY SIGNS AMICUS BRIEF IN SUPPORT OF STATES' ROLE IN LNG SITING DECISIONS

Washington, D.C. - Representative Edward Markey (D-MA), a senior member of the Homeland Security Committee and the author of the 1979 legislation that established guidelines for the siting of Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) facilities, today released the following statement on the submission of an amicus brief in a case in the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit. The amicus brief, which was prepared by attorneys working with Representative Barney Frank (D-MA) and signed by Rep. Markey and a coalition of 18 Members of Congress from coastal areas, expresses support for the important role of the States in decisions regarding the siting of LNG facilities.

"When it comes to the siting of new LNG facilities, the Bush Administration favors weak federal rules and the preemption of any stronger state LNG siting safety requirements. This misguided policy would severely undermine public safety and security. While my 1979 LNG siting bill clearly envisioned a federal role in the siting of new LNG facilities, it also directed that such facilities be remotely located. Unfortunately, the Transportation Department and FERC have failed to follow that directive. At the same time, my bill never preempted State public safety and emergency response authorities, reflecting Congress' view that State Government's needed to be able to take action to protect their populations from hazards represented by proposals to site new LNG facilities in densely populated urban areas. The amicus brief that we've filed reflects Congressional support for retention of such authorities by the States."

A copy of the amicus brief can be found on Rep. Markey's website at www.house.gov/markey

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